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War's Cup of Woe.

The following item, sent out by the Associated Press last week, helps us see, though we cannot *feel*, what must be the almost daily scenes in the towns and villages of the Transvaal, where nearly all the men are under arms:

"A private message from Ladysmith to-day says that a messenger, who had just arrived from Pretoria, says, the women there are weeping and wailing on the market place. Three trains have been despatched from Klerksdorp to fetch the wounded from Mafeking. It is estimated there are seven hundred killed and wounded."

The sight of men dying or lying wounded on the field never completes the picture of a battle. Most of the bullets which pierce a human body on the field pierce a human heart in some far-off home. The paper which tells us about this market place, with its crowds of weeping, wailing women, wives and mothers, who have lost their loved ones, also tells us about the "marvelous heroism" of the soldiers. It is this marvelous heroism of soldiers in the heat of battle which has for centuries so fascinated and dazzled the eyes of men that they have failed to notice the weeping of the women in the market place, refusing to be comforted, because the fatal bullet has not only killed men, but pierced and torn hearts. War on its own battle-fields is ghastly enough, but its cup of woe is not fully realized until we hear the bitter cry from the homes and the market places. And this is the way civilized men, after nineteen centuries of Christianity, decide which nation is right on an international question!—*The American Friend*.

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No Tonic to Literature.

The *Union Signal*, discussing a recent war editorial in the *Independent*, says:

"The excitement of war does doubtless set pugilistic pens a-going. Romance clings about the soldier who rides forth to die or kill. But the very ferment of the mind when the dogs of war slip the leash deny the possibility of that calm, pure, strong, depth of thought out of which alone true art is born. Men do not understand death truly when they are hurrying each other into the valley of the shadow. If they did, they would stay their hands. 'Man's inhumanity to man' cannot teach the sacredness of human brotherhood. The gentle strength of womanhood has a broader platform for development and putting to the proof when peace broods than when war frowns. Life is a small thing when it is an exchange for lead and steel, and the "splendor" of death on the battlefield is a sorry thing beside the triumphal passing on of lives victorious over life—and death. In times of peace all the arts take on new vigor. This cannot otherwise be. The human mind is like the chemist's vessel where crystals form. A shock to the liquid delays crystallization. In stillness only are the lovely forms perfected. In times of peace man's best nature and noblest powers grow and expand. The pulsings that answer to the cannon's boom are not creative currents—the *Independent* 'to the contrary notwithstanding.' A crop of war songs, stories and speeches may 'enrich' the magazines for awhile, but it will take prayers and tears and life itself to overcome the fever induced thereby."

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